

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 are pending. Claims 1-6 have been amended and claim 7 added. In addition, the specification has been amended to correct minor informalities found therein and in response to the objection to the disclosure. Further, the Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended in response to the objection thereto.

In paragraph 1, on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specific language in claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 was identified as forming the basis for the rejection. The claims have been amended responsive to the rejection. It is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 7, on page 3 of the Office Action, it was indicated that claims 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate this indication of allowability but submit that claim 1, the claim from which the allowable claims depend, is allowable for the reasons discussed below. Further, as noted, the claims have been amended responsive to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In paragraph 5, on page 3 of the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) being anticipated by Gaidos, U.S. Patent No. 2,688,203. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention of claim 1 is directed to a device providing an electrical connection between a recoiling mass of a weapon and a fixed cradle, the device comprising at least one electrical connector formed of a plug and a socket, one of said plug and socket is integral with

said cradle and the other one of said socket and said plug is integral with said recoiling mass, said socket and plug being disconnected during recoil of said recoiling mass.

Gaidos is directed to a foldable automatic or semiautomatic rifle. There are no electrical connections. Further, in small arms there is no such thing as a cradle. What is being equated to a cradle in the Office Action is defined as a firearm receiver. It is not clear what, of Gaidos, actually constitutes the firearm receiver as it is not defined in the Office Action. It is highly unlikely though that one would call a receiver 34 in which a lock 37 is mounted, a cradle. Further, it is unclear how one would equate a plug that is part of an electrical connection (as in Applicants' claim) with a lock 37 that is cammed downwardly to allow a bolt 72 to retract upon firing the weapon. It is the bolt 72 that is equated with a recoiling mass in the Office Action. The lock 37 engages a transverse slot 83 on the bottom of the bolt 72 near the rear end. It is a combination of the lock 37 and the slot 83 in the bolt 72 that is used by the bolt return spring 71 to place the bolt in battery, that is, ready for firing (see col. 4, lines 18-38). There is nothing in such a device that would suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

The weapon systems are not from the same field, one being small arms, the other being electrically fired weapons. The small arm of Gaidos is a percussion weapon, that is a firing pin strikes a primer in a cartridge to ignite the propellant, whereas in Applicants' device electrical current ignites the primer, thus requiring the electrical connection.

It is improper to disregard Applicants' specification, which defines the terms, totally misrepresent the teaching of a reference and then allege the reference anticipates the claimed invention. Although a bolt may be defined as a recoiling mass, in Applicants' claimed invention a recoiling mass is defined as a barrel that is fitted at its rear part with a breech sleeve in which the breechblock is displaced. A bolt of a rifle does not equate to such a structure. Further, a rifle

does not have a cradle as is understood by those skilled in the art. Lastly, a lock does not equate to a plug of an electrical connection, and a slot does not equate to a socket of an electrical connection. As such, there is nothing in Gaidos that either anticipates or suggests the claimed invention. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 6, on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hoopes, U.S. Patent No. 2,800,057. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hoopes, at least, is in the field of breech loading guns. However, Hoopes does not disclose a plug, a socket, a motor mean, plug pins, or a support made of a flexible insulating material.

Hoopes does disclose a breechblock 12, that, when a gun moves out of battery, is lowered thereby opening the breech. In so doing, the operating crank 22 forces a push rod 70 against a lug 69 which retracts the firing pin 40 so that the breechblock 12 may lower without damaging the firing pin 40.

The firing contact is shown in Fig 5. It consists of a contact member 42 that engages an outer surface of the cup 46 of the firing pin 40. The contact member 42 is located in the breechblock 12. When the breechblock 12 is closed, at the other end, the contact member 42 contacts a connector member 88 mounted in the breech ring 14. An end 62 of the connector member 88, when the gun returns to battery, contacts an electrical outlet 89 located in the common mount 90 (col. 5, lines 5-42). There is no indication anywhere of a plug going into a socket. In fact, if such was done, the end 62 of the connector member 88 would be sheared off when the weapon goes out of battery. Thus, there is no plug, no socket, and what is alleged to be a motor means is not a motor means but rather is an operating crank 22 with a crank portion 18.

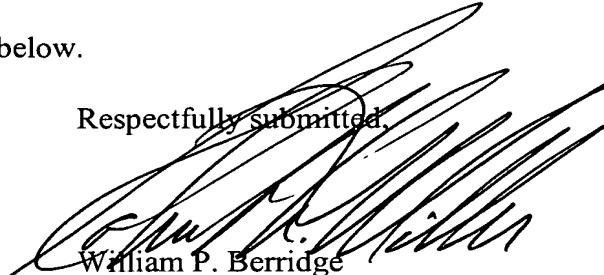
The crank 22 is mounted on an operating shaft 20. The operating shaft 20 is linked to the cannon mount 90 so that when the weapon goes out of battery, the breechblock 12 is automatically moved to a loading position. This is nothing but a mechanical action (col. 3, lines 5-20).

As to the alleged flexible insulating material, Applicants' claim 3 states the plug incorporates contact pins integral with a support made of a flexible insulating material. The insulating material in Hoopes is found between the steel sleeve member 47 and the body member 41 of the firing pin 40 (Fig. 6). Further, there is more insulating material found in the interior of the cup 46 of the firing pin 40. Likewise, there is insulating material that totally surrounds the contact members 42 and a connector member 88, all of which are to insulate the various electrical connector elements from the surrounding metal of the breechblock 12 and the breech ring 14. The items are not supports as found in Applicants' claim 3. Thus, Hoopes does not literally disclose the claimed invention, and a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is inappropriate. Further, Hoopes does not suggest the claimed invention for the forgoing reasons. It is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attachment:

Amended Abstract

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